

## Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program (RSMP)

A new monitoring program, funded with western Washington municipal stormwater permittee contributions, will be implemented after 2013. The RSMP is based on recommendations of an independent stakeholder committee that outlined an overall strategy for a *Stormwater Assessment and Monitoring Program for Puget Sound* and specific *Recommendations for Municipal Stormwater Permit Monitoring*. For more information about these recommendations see <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/psmonitoring/swworkgroup.html>.

Multiple efforts are underway to prepare to implement the RSMP. Ecology is developing a new RSMP webpage to help permittees understand the process of implementing the RSMP and opt-out monitoring provisions. Below is an outline of the type of information that will be found on the new webpage, which will be available soon.

**Status and Trends in Puget Sound Area Receiving Waters** to measure whether things are getting better or worse and identify patterns in healthy and impaired streams and shorelines.

Key documents that will soon be posted on Ecology's new RSMP website:

- *Scope of work: number of sites, parameters, and sampling frequency for each component*
- *Lists of RSMP sites*
- *Draft Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs) for monitoring in small streams and in marine nearshore areas*

Current implementation situation: For Puget Sound, draft QAPPs have been written for small streams monitoring and nearshore sediment chemistry monitoring. Draft QAPPs for nearshore mussel and bacteria monitoring are being compiled. Final Ecology-approved **QAPPs for opt-out monitoring** are expected to be available before the permit is effective August 1, 2013. For southwest Washington, Ecology is supporting a separate effort to design a receiving water sampling design to complement the permits.

**Effectiveness Monitoring of Stormwater Management Program Activities** to provide widely applicable information about what works and what doesn't work in certain situations, and how to improve stormwater management.

Key documents that will soon be posted on Ecology's new RSMP website:

- *Recommended list of topics*
- *Literature review*
- *Scope of work for current project to synthesize literature review findings*

Current implementation situation: The SWG submitted a prioritized list of recommended study topics to Ecology in September 2011. Findings of a recent literature review are now being synthesized to refine the list of questions. The synthesis papers are expected to be completed in spring 2013 and the list of studies revised shortly thereafter. RFPs for studies are expected to go out in early 2014.

**Source Identification Information Repository** to provide information about source identification and elimination methods and identify opportunities for regional solutions to common illicit discharges and pollution problems.

Key documents that will soon be posted on Ecology's new RSMP website:

- *Scoping memo and draft recommendations*

Current implementation situation: The overall pieces of the repository were described in a "scoping memo" but the specific content and next steps to build those pieces have not yet been identified. Ecology staff will continue to work on this with the independent stakeholder group during the coming year.

### Administration of Pooled Funds

Key documents that will soon be posted on Ecology's new RSMP website:

- *Recommended oversight committee charter*
- *Boilerplate interagency agreement*
- *Requests for qualifications and/or proposals (these will also be posted under each RSMP component)*

Current implementation situation: Ecology will not know exactly how much money will be available to conduct these RSMP activities until after December 2013 when permittees have notified us as to which S8 options they choose to implement. Ecology plans to hire the RSMP program manager in early-mid 2013. An oversight committee will be convened after the program manager is hired.